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Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management  
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Spending Affordability Committee



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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**SB 406**  
**Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance**  
**Coverage for Orthoses**  
**(So Every Body Can Move Act)**

Good afternoon Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 406, Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance Coverage for Orthoses, the expansion of the So Every BODY Can Move Act. Last session, Nathan blew us all away, talking about how he needs a specialized prosthetic leg to play travel baseball with his peers, but insurance would only pay for an everyday prosthesis. With our help, SB 614 passed and as we speak, Nathan is in the process of getting his new sports leg, allowing him to be physically active like his peers. We have changed his life, and the lives of other children and adults across the state, by giving them access to medically necessary prosthetic legs and arms for physical activity.

One of the major compromises of last year's legislation was removing all coverage for custom orthoses. Senate bill 406 re-introduces coverage for custom orthoses for physical activity. Orthoses/orthotic devices are external brace/supports to treat a congenital, neuromuscular, musculoskeletal disorder or acquired condition. The bill matches the coverage and language of the prosthetics bill which unanimously passed the Senate last session.

The disability community is at a significantly higher risk of physical inactivity when compared to their able-bodied peers. 50% of adults with disabilities get not aerobic physical activity and the prevalence of obesity in children with mobility impairments is twice that of children without disabilities. This legislation will change lives and significantly decrease costs associated with the significant co-morbidities associated with physical inactivity—diabetes and cardiovascular disease just to name two—with a small up-front cost.

Please note that the fiscal note\* is based on the cost study completed by the state, but multiple billing codes included in the calculations are not relevant for this bill. The advocates, who you will hear from shortly, have already met with MDH, who is working to revise their calculations.

Together, we can help ensure that Marylanders have access to medically necessary custom orthoses for physical activity. I respectfully request the committee a favorable report on SB 406.